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*Pres Blair, William M.*  
*Pres Mollenhoff*  
*Pres Louviere, Vernon R*  
*Pres Gambatese*

## Insurgent Blair Gains Press Club Presidency

A New York Times reporter last night was elected president of the National Press Club in an upset.

William M. Blair, a member of the Times' Washington bureau, won by only seven votes in the largest and one of the most lively elections ever held at the club. Blair defeated Clark R. Mollenhoff, a reporter for the Washington bureau of Cowles Publications, 408 to 401. There

was one unannounced write-in vote.

Traditionally, Mollenhoff would have been "escalated" from vice-president to president without opposition. However, some members opposed the traditional automatic elevation, and other insurgents ran for other club offices.

Nearly two-thirds of the club's estimated 1,300 active members cast their votes. In past elections, when few offices were contested, only a few hundred voted.

Uncontested were the vice-presidential post, which went to Windsor P. Booth, a news service chief for National Geographic Magazine; the secretary's office, won by Edward W. Scripps II, vice-president of Scripps-Howard Newspapers, and a two-year position on the club's board of governors which went to Arthur F. Hermann, a reporter for McGraw-Hill Magazines.

Vernon R. Louviere, a freelance writer, was elected financial secretary, defeating Francis A. Porter, reporter for the Washington Daily News.

Joseph M. Gambatese, an associate editor of Nation's Business Magazine, was elected treasurer of the club, defeating two opponents. Stanley Hamilton, a reporter for Traffic World publications and Carey Cronan, Washington correspondent for several Connecticut newspapers.

Three seats on the club's board of governors, each for three years, were won by Allan W. Cromley, Washington correspondent for two Oklahoma newspapers; William (Bill) Gold, a columnist for the Washington Post, and John W. (Pat) Heffernan, Washington bureau chief of the Reuters-Australian Associated Press.

They defeated Neil R. Regeimbal, a correspondent for Chilton Publications; Charles A. McAleer, a rewrite man for The Washington Evening Star, and Ralph de Toledano, a columnist for King Features.

*Pres Booth, Windsor*  
*Pres Hermann, Arthur F.*